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PRESS RELEASE

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The Associated Press Features IMA-EURO Soldier in his Role as Translator at the 212th MASH in Pakistan

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Sgt. Mohammad Tabassum, an IMA-EURO Soldier assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Benelux was featured in an Associated Press (AP) article Nov. 6 in his role as one of the translators at the 212th Mobile Surgical Army Hospital in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan.

Since the MASH's arrival in Pakistan Oct. 24, American doctors have treated hundreds of victims, who were crushed by collapsed buildings or buried under landslides during the massive Oct. 8 earthquake in which more than 80,000 people were killed, the AP article said.

Pakistan-born IMA-EURO soldier Tabassum, who emigrated to the United States at age 20 to seek education, is one of the U.S. Soldiers who translate for the American doctors who perform surgery and other medical procedures on earthquake victims as well as inoculating survivors against the outbreaks of tetanus and diphtheria.

"You can see it in their eyes; they're grateful. They will always remember the moment when the Americans came to them in their hour of need. They no longer see the Americans as evil bombers in Afghanistan and Iraq, but as compassionate, helping human beings," the AP article quoted 48-year old Sgt. Mohammad Tabassum as saying.

-30-

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.